

**West Northamptonshire Council**

**Cabinet Minutes**

**28<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

**Cabinet Members Present:**

|                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Jonathan Nunn (Chair) | Lizzy Bowen             |
| Rebecca Breese        | Adam Brown (Vice Chair) |
| Matt Golby            | Mike Hallam             |
| Phil Larratt          | Malcolm Longley         |
| Fiona Baker           | David Smith             |

**Other West Northamptonshire Council Members Present:**

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Sally Beardsworth       | Jonathan Harris |
| Councillor Phil Bignell | Jamal Alwahabi  |
| Dennis Meredith         | Danielle Stone  |
| John Shephard           |                 |

**West Northamptonshire Council Officers Present:**

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Gillian Baldock     | Political Assistant - Conservative Group |
| Anna Earnshaw       | Chief Executive                          |
| Paul Hanson         | Democratic Services Manager              |
| Martin Henry        | Executive Director of Finance            |
| Sofia Neal-Gonzalez | Democracy Officer (minutes)              |
| Rebecca Peck        | Assistant Chief Executive                |
| Jed Scoles          | Political Assistant - Labour Group       |
| Catherine Whitehead | Monitoring Officer                       |

**1. APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE:**

None

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**3. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair explained that the thoughts of councillors and officers were with the people of Ukraine, with West Northants Council sending sympathy and support. The Ukrainian flag was being flown outside of the Council building in a show of solidarity.

#### **ITEM 4. Disposal of Land at Sixfields, Northampton**

At the Chair's invitation Councillor Malcolm Longley presented the report, copies of which had been previously circulated. It was noted that, when delivering this item to full Council the objective had been to listen to views and these had been taken on board.

Councillors made the following comments.

- Recommendation 8 within the KPMG report, 'pressures on sign off process' advised that a decision be paused should new information come to light.
- There were various reservations and worries from members regarding this item.
- It was noted that it had been a sensible idea for the council to go down the Red Book route as opposed to the open market.
- This item was a good example of a decision that should be looked over by the scrutiny committee.
- The football club was championed for its social value to the County.
- It was queried whether WNC could have used and regenerated the land itself.

The Chair made the following comments.

- WNC hold the freehold on the land but not the leasehold which is for 150 years, as such the council cannot develop on it without breaking the lease.
- The information from the KPMG report is very relevant and important.
- There had been big criticisms regarding some of decisions made by NBC in the past, specifically related to diligence and transparency.
- The comments at full council had been very helpful.

Councillor Adam Brown noted that the Scrutiny Committee were within their rights to request to view an item and did not have to wait for Cabinet to refer a matter to them.

Councillor Malcolm Longley noted that there had been many interesting comments made and that it was important for the process to be an ethical one as well as a competitive one. Members were advised that this item would be deferred to the March Cabinet meeting with the timescale being reset.

Councillor Longley presented the new recommendations to Cabinet.

RESOLVED: That.

- a) A new decision-making timetable is set to consider the disposal of land at Sixfields by the Leader in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Finance with a view to achieving a capital receipt before the end of 2022.
- b) The Council should trigger the process under Chapter 3 Part 5 Localism Act 2011 relating to a disposal of an asset of Community Value (the Running Track Site).



**West  
Northamptonshire  
Council**

- c) The Assistant Director Assets & Environment conduct a best consideration assessment of the latest offers from Cillarda and CDNL and report to a future meeting of Cabinet.